

PAEDERIA FOETIDA L., COIX LACRYMA-JOBI L., AND
HEDYCHUM CORONATUM KOENIG FROM IBERIA PARISH, LOUISIANA

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On June 22, 1983 the authors spent several hours rambling around on the grounds of the Jungle Botanical Gardens on the McIlhenny Estate on Avery Island in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Although this once lush botanical garden shows many signs of neglect and lack of planned maintenance, many interesting populations of native and introduced plants occur there. There are several large populations of as yet unidentified bamboos in the woods throughout the gardens.

The authors saw large populations of a foul-smelling tropical vine, Paederia foetida L. in the Rubiaceae (Thomas 84494). It was sprawling over vegetation in much the same manner as Lonicera japonica and Lygodium japonicum. Its white to pink to purplish campanulate flowers are quite showy. Small (1933) reported it from "thickets and fence-rows, peninsular Florida. Native of West Indies." This is the first collection of Paederia reported from Louisiana and was not included in Thomas and Allen (1982) or MacRoberts (1984). The authors have also seen it growing in the shrubs near a building on the campus of the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette in Lafayette Parish.

Coix lacryma-jobi L., Job's Tears, is a cultivated grass that is also a widespread escaped plant on Avery Island. Hedychium coronatum Koenig, a cultivated ginger, also is a self-reproducing escaped cultivar in the area. These two species were included in Thomas and Allen (1984) based on the escapes in Jungle Gardens.

LITERATURE CITED

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